

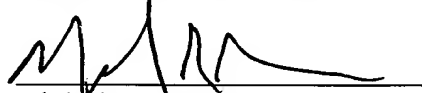
REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 2, 13-17, 51-58, 60 and 62-80 remain in the case.
2. Claims 1, 2, 13, 51, 56-58, 60, 62, 64-68 and 73-77 were noted to be allowed by the Examiner.
3. Claims 14-17, 52-55, 63, 69-72 and 78-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.
4. Applicants have amended these claims, without the addition of new matter, and taking into consideration the Examiner's recommendations. It is submitted that the amendments made to these claims moot the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, claims 14, 15, 52, 53, 69, 70 and 78 have been amended to incorporate the term "isolated" as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 16, 54, and 71 have been amended to modify the claim number upon which these claims are related depend in order to incorporate proper antecedent basis for the expression vector associated with the nucleic acid. Finally, Claim 63 has been amended to delete "recombinant nucleic acid comprising a" to make this claim more clear. In view of the amendments made to these claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these claims.

Conclusions

Applicants submit that all the grounds for rejection of the pending claims have now been overcome and that all the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney by telephone as needed to advance this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas I. Slepchuk, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

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